

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1040  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02873/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 December, regarding Petition “P-05-1040 Introduce a moratorium on the approval any new large scale waste incinerators in Wales”. I apologise for the delay in this reply.

As outlined in the Minister for Housing and Local Government’s letter to you of 23 October, our aim is for Wales to become a zero waste nation and to move to a circular economy. The incineration of waste is a transitory step, with high efficiency energy from waste facilities, which can provide energy and heat from what would otherwise waste material, being an important way of dealing with the waste which cannot be recycled, in line with the waste hierarchy.

Planning for waste infrastructure is an ongoing process with regional monitoring of progress towards the provision of a network of installations which implement the waste hierarchy and apply the ‘proximity principle’ as laid down in UK law. The proximity principle requires the energy recovery of mixed municipal waste to take place in one of the nearest appropriate installations. Decisions on individual projects will therefore be informed by the latest level of need identified through the regional monitoring. Recycling targets, however, apply to waste produced in Wales, so any waste imported into Wales would not count towards the statutory minimum targets.

The decision by China to ban the import of lower grade plastic waste for recycling has had an impact on the global trade in recycled plastic. The decision has, however, not affected recycling in Wales directly as our policy is focused on collecting high quality plastic waste for recycling. The end destinations of plastic waste recycling from Wales are published on [My Recycling Wales](#) which has been updated recently with the 2018/19 information.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As a Government, we strongly support the continued regulation of the international movement of lower grade waste material and the controls are being further strengthened on the movement of certain types of plastic internationally under the Basel Convention. These amendments became effective on 1 January 2021.

Yours sincerely



**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

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